

First Congregational Church Weekly Newsletter

East Longmeadow, MA

February 5, 2025

LOOKING AHEAD in February

We will hold the annual First Congregational Church Financial Meeting on February 23, immediately following Sunday's service. Please plan to join us as we talk about the financial status from 2024, trends and highlights and present the 2025 budget for a vote by the congregation.

SUNDAY WORSHIP in the sanctuary or livestream link: <http://www.facebook.com/churchontherotary/>

WHO DOESN'T LIKE FELLOWSHIP HOUR??

Whether it's because you like a warm cup of coffee, or tea, or a cookie, or brownie, maybe a cracker and a bite of cheese.... Maybe just a chance to chat with a friend or two or three.

Would you miss it???

The same three or four people have been bearing the burden of planning, setting up, serving and cleaning up for many months. They need some sabbath rest.

Please consider donating a treat to eat and check the sign up sheet at the coffee table and consider "doing coffee hour". We have simplified the task and it adds so much to our Sunday mornings, time spent with our church family.

SPRINGFIELD RESCUE MISSION NEEDS MORE THAN JUST WARM CLOTHES

Donation items accepted in good and working condition:

- bedding
- small household items, dishes, pots & pans, toasters, toaster ovens, coffee machines, mixers, microwaves, etc.
- area rugs and throw rugs
- strollers
- pack and play for infants
- highchairs and booster seats
- towels (bath, hand and face towels)

KENSINGTON FOOD PANTRY

We continue to serve the families at Kensington School, helping them feed their children through the cold winter months. The need is great and we fill five bags each week for five different families.

February is the month we kick off our "Share the Love" food drive. On Sunday, **February 9th**, we will be passing out grocery bags to everyone after church. Hopefully, you will be able to put some nourishing food items in the bag so we can keep our shelves at the food pantry full. The Dollar Store is also a great place to pick up a bag of rice, box of pasta, pasta sauce, box of crackers, soup, jam, etc. **You can return the bags by February 23rd.** This church really knows how to "Share the Love" of God and I want to thank you for your continuing support.

We couldn't do this important work without you.

Super Saturday 2025 Registration - Online

Super Saturday 2025: I Love to Tell the Story
9:00am - 4:00pm on March 8, 2025
Online via Zoom

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do. - Arabella Katherine Hankey*

The stories of our faith, told and retold over generations are central to our identity as followers of Jesus. Just as these stories guided Christians throughout history, they continue to help us find our path forward as individuals and as a collective. As Anthony de Mello (Jesuit priest and psychotherapist born in India) explains, "...the shortest distance between truth and a human being is a story." The stories of our faith remind us who we are and whose we are; they are powerful and compelling. Join us for a day of reflecting on the power of sacred stories and how we might use story to tell of the Christian way of living and the power of the work we do as the Church and as people of faith.

Registration closes February 24.

Reminder: Onsite Super Saturday and Online Super Saturday are two distinct but parallel events. You are viewing the registration form for the Online Super Saturday experience. To view and complete the registration for participation in the Onsite Super Saturday, please follow this link: <https://sneucc-reg.brtaapp.com/SuperSaturday2025Onsite>

NOTES of THANKS

FROM THE OPEN PANTRY

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous donation of \$380. Your gift helps us continue our critical work providing nourishing meals and groceries to thousands of people and families facing hunger.

We are grateful for your contribution and commitment to ending hunger in Springfield.

Always thankful, Nicole

To my Church Family,

I want to thank everyone who helped out on Saturday, January 18 at the service for Dick. Thank you also for the thoughtful cards and notes I received. Your kindness and support is very much appreciated.

Sincerely, Doris



First Congregational Church

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